



MSDE BULLETIN

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MAULTSBY RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT, DUNN RE-ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF MSBE

The Maryland State Board of Education last week re-elected Marilyn Maultsby as president.

This marks the first full term for Maultsby, who was elected earlier this year to fill out the term of Raymond V. "Buzz" Bartlett, who resigned after being named head of the Council for Basic Education.

In other action, the board re-elected Reginald Dunn as vice president. Dunn had been elevated to the position after Maultsby replaced Bartlett.

Maultsby is executive director of the Maryland Health Care Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to improve access to health care services and health insurance coverage to uninsured and underinsured persons statewide. She also serves as a board member for numerous organizations, including Associated Black Charities, Network 2000, the Maryland Association of Health Underwriters, and the Northwest Hospital Center. She was a 1998 and 2000 recipient of the Maryland's Top 100 Women award.

Dunn is president and CEO of DDL, Inc., a communications consulting firm that specializes in minority business enterprises, public relations, and marketing. Previously, he served as president of OAO, a high-tech management and development firm, and as senior vice president for corporate development at the Booker T. Washington Foundation.

The Maryland State Board of Education is a 12-member body appointed by the governor. Members serve a maximum of two four-year terms. A student member serves a one-year term. ■

STATE BOARD GRANTS APPROVAL TO PLAN FOR BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOLS

A broad-based proposal to continue the progress made at Baltimore City Public Schools has received the go-ahead from the State Board.

Master Plan II for the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS), submitted by BCPSS CEO Carmen Russo to the Board, offers a blueprint for guiding the system over the next five years. The lengthy proposal focuses on several areas critical to continuing the success forged by the system since the state-city partnership was launched. For example:

- **Accountability** – The Master Plan II includes a selection of "Indicators of Success" designed to measure progress over the next five years.
- **Continuity** – The plan maintains the six major objectives articulated under the first master plan for Baltimore City.
- **Unifying Themes** – Two themes – improving the quality of instruction and improving the environment for instruction – lie at the foundation of the new master plan. Top quality instruction will stem from improved alignment of curriculum with the Maryland standards, recruiting excellent principals and teachers, and providing them with meaningful professional development. Strengthening the instructional environment is dependent upon effective implementation of the system's facilities plan.
- **Attention to Low-Performing Schools** – The plan details the academic intervention plans of the BCPSS, targeting state reconstituted and local reconstituted schools.
- **Responsiveness to Westat and HB 853** – Master Plan II takes aim at the requirements of both the Westat report, submitted last year, and HB 853, the General Assembly's plan that reauthorized the city/state partnership.

Russo told the board that Master Plan II is an attempt to focus the efforts of the BCPSS on key areas, rather than try to jump all of the system's hurdles at once.

The plan is expected to go through revisions over the next two years to accommodate changes in the State assessments, the new requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind act, and MSDE's development of a statewide master plan template required by the Bridge to Excellence legislation. As part of this, the BCPSS will join MSDE in a joint review of the Indicators of Success and the related targets in the plan to determine appropriate changes. In addition, while working with MSDE, BCPSS will establish a dedicated, high-level planning function within its administration to ensure that the updating process is properly handled.

In other business, the State Board approved BCPSS's plans for improving the four schools recently added to the local reconstitution list. Plans for those schools, as well as others in reconstitution, were detailed in the new strategic plan. ■

STATE BOARD SETS CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR'S MEETING DATES

The Maryland State Board of Education last week approved a slate of meetings for 2003.

The State Board will meet on the following dates:

- **January** – Tuesday and Wednesday, January 28-29
- **February** – Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25-26
- **March** – Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25-26
- **April** – Tuesday and Wednesday, April 29-30 (meeting and retreat)
- **May** – Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20-21
- **June** – Tuesday and Wednesday, June 24-25
- **July** – Tuesday and Wednesday, July 22-23
- **August** – Tuesday and Wednesday, August 26-27
- **September** – Tuesday and Wednesday, September 23-24
- **October** – Tuesday and Wednesday, October 28-29
- **December** – Tuesday and Wednesday, December 2-3. ■

SOME TEACHER SHORTAGES REMAIN AS SCHOOL YEAR APPROACHES

A number of Maryland school systems continue to search for teachers as the new school year looms only a month away.

State officials had predicted that the state would need between 7,000 and 8,000 new teachers this fall. Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick reported to the State Board last week that more than 1,200 positions remained unfilled, many in difficult-to-staff areas.

Special education positions remain the most difficult to fill for most school systems. Others report having difficulty hiring technology and mathematics teachers at the high school level.

Dr. Grasmick reported that Prince George's county had 375 open slots, while Baltimore City needed another 250 teachers. Significant shortfalls also could be found in the Montgomery, Frederick and Anne Arundel systems.

State officials have been putting the spotlight on teacher shortages for the past few years and have made efforts to combat the problem. For example, the Maryland Initiative for New Teachers (MINT) program offers guidance and support for those new to the profession.

The problem of finding new teachers is not unique to Maryland, but the state has special challenges. For example, while state K-12 schools will need as many as 8,000 new teachers in each of the next few years, university-based teacher training programs in the state only graduate about 2,200 education majors. School systems must fill the gap by recruiting from outside their boundaries. ■

ANNOUNCING MSDE'S NEW HOME ON THE WEB: www.marylandpublicschools.org

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) announces a new Web address: marylandpublicschools.org. The new address will make it easier for the public to remember and access MSDE's Web site. The original address, www.msde.state.md.us, will remain operational, so links and bookmarks to the site via that address will still work.

"Our Web site has always been popular," said State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick. "Now that we're creating a voluntary state curriculum and designing new state tests, I expect the public will rely even more on our Web site to keep current on progress in these areas. Marylandpublicschools.org is a simple, descriptive Web address, making it easier for the public to access our site."

Marylandpublicschools.org is not a new Web *site* but an easier to remember Web *address* that will take users to the existing MSDE Web site. Web surfers using the marylandpublicschools.org address will find the useful content and features always found on the MSDE Web site, such as:

- Information on state programs and policies, such as the High School Assessments, safe schools, family literacy, and teacher recruitment
- Progress updates on major initiatives like the new state curriculum and assessments
- Teacher education and certification information
- News releases
- Fact sheets, newsletters, and task force reports
- Links to other state and local school system sites
- State Board of Education agendas

The MSDE Web site has grown steadily in popularity and content each year. In 2001 the site received more than 26 million hits—an increase of 10 million over the previous year.

MSDE expects the number of hits to climb again in 2002. Future enhancements to the Web site include a redesign of the site's navigation and new video-streaming features. ■

**MSDE BULLETIN
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICE
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201**

On the web: www.marylandpublicschools.org

**Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools
Ronald A. Peiffer, Assistant State Superintendent
Bill Reinhard, Editor**